GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Diversion of Forest Land
Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received several proposals for providing forest land for defence projects during the last two years and the current year;
(b) if so, the details and present status of such proposals;
(c) whether his Ministry has decided to provide land for missile testing range and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether experts opinions were sought in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof; and
(e) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the losses likely to be caused to forest cover and wildlife by setting up the missile testing range and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e)A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.â€ *134 ASKED BY SHRI RAJESH RANJAN REGARDING 'DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND' DUE FOR REPLY ON 03.05.2016.

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Table containing details of proposals received for defence category and their present status is given at Annexure-I.

(c) Yes Sir, Ministry has considered the proposal and the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has recommended the proposal for diversion of 154.42 ha forest land for setting up of missile testing range in favour of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal was examined at the State level by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Conservator of Forest (CF), Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF). Subsequently the proposal was scrutinized and cleared in the meeting of State Board of Wildlife of 11.02.2014 and then in the meeting of Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) on 12th -13th Aug. 2014. Further the decision of the NBWL was sent to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Central Empowered Committee of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India recommended the proposal vide its report dated 11.02.2015. The proposal was also scrutinized by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 22.12.2014 and again on 16.03.2016. After considering all the aspects of the project, the FAC in its meeting held on 16.03.2016, recommended the proposal with certain conditions to be fulfilled by the State Government. A letter conveying these conditions has been sent to the State Government on 11th April, 2016.

The Ministry has however accorded general approval for under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for

(i) diversion of forest land for creation of critical public utility of 13 categories by Government Departments in 117 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) effected districts, by Government Departments involving not more than 5.00 ha of forest land in each case upto 31st December, 2018;

(ii) For construction and widening of two lane roads by BRO/ other agencies and widening of link roads, between border roads and National Highways / State Highways/ other State roads in area falling within 100 km aerial distance from line of actual control irrespective of area of forest land involved valid upto 31st December, 2019; and

(iii) Forest land required for creation of border security related infrastructure such as border roads, fencing, border outposts, flood lights, surveillance infrastructure and power infrastructure within 5 km aerial distance from the international border by para-military organisation of the Ministry of Home Affairs valid till 31st December, 2019.

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